531 line of clockmakers, whose products were re-
531 nowned for their accuracy. Another district in
371 Ostrobothnia is famous for the typical Finnish knives, or daggers, called puukko, which are marvelously sharp besides being nicely decorated. The manufacture of these knives is still flourishing, and the special process used in tempering the blade is kept a family secret. Almost every Finnish man carries a puukko at his belt--not for any violent purpose, but just as a handy tool--and every foreign tourist purchases one or
322 several of them for a keepsake. Another branch
●481 of handicraft requiring special skill is the making of skis. There are several masters of this art in various parts of the country. The traditional Finnish skis are made of extra thin birch wood which is curved delicately by heating before a

322 fire and is then tarred for better glide. As the
481 skis are intended for cross-country skiing, up-
hill as well as downhill travel, they must be
very light and carefully constructed.

286 As is to be expected, women have maintained
a greater interest in handicraft than the men.
Practically every farmhouse has a hand loom,
and this is not rare even among the city families.
Traditional skills are promoted and developed
by various schools for weaving and sewing
531 which are quite well attended. The Karelian
286 women have of old been famous for their em-
broideries and lacy weaving patterns, the
western Finnish women for their decorative
linens and rugs. In certain localities lace-
making has developed into a real occupation;
the most famous among these is the small